

The Iditarod is a dog-sled race that takes place in Alaska. It retraces the route from Anchorage to Nome used in 1925 during a diphtheria epidemic. Due to a snow storm, trains were unable to deliver the medication needed to the residents in Nome. Ships could not carry the medication because the seas were frozen so dog sleds were the only means of transportation.

More famous is the dog Balto who led the dog sled carrying the medicine the last two legs of the route. The third graders read story about Balto and the challenges the dog team and their musher faced. As a conclusion to this story, the third grade students run their own Iditarod race. Each class has 4 teams. One member is the musher and the rest of the team is the dogs. The students must carry food (crackers), water, cups, a sleeping bag for a rest, booties for the dogs, and extra clothing for the musher in their sled. The teams race from station to station. At each of the 4 stations, the musher must answer a question about the curriculum learned so far and draw a condition. The condition may say that they have become lost and must run around a tree 10 times or one of the dogs is injured and must ride in the sled to the next station. Once the 4 stations have been completed, the team races to the finish line. If the weather allows for a full race, it takes about 1 hour for a team to complete the course.

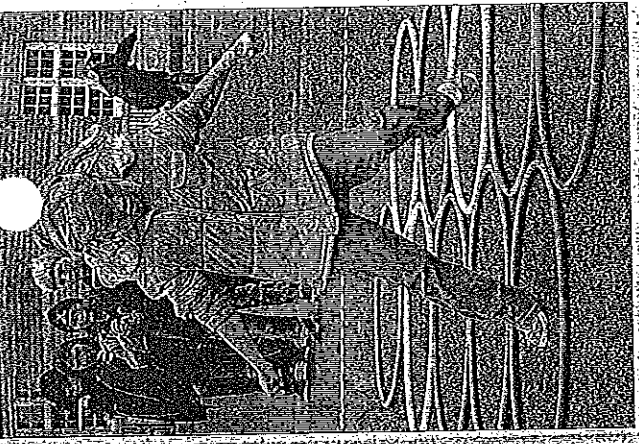




Wyatt Schmit competes in an event where the students carried cups full of sand to fill a bowl.



One of the popular events with the kids was the Sack Race. Here Larissa Diaz competes for her team.



This event was a hopscotch type event of jumping through hoops. Showing competing in the event is Mariah Fox.



Rachel Germain carries a marshmallow on a spoon in one of the relay events in the Third Grade Olympics.

Third graders hold Olympic Games

Events test skills, speed

The Somerset third grade students competed in their own Olympics Games last Friday.

Students represented different countries. They studied their country and made a flag to match the flag of their country.

The students then did an opening procession to the playground. On the playground, they competed in a number of games to represent their countries.

The games were designed to provide mental and physical tests for the students.



Photos by Dave Newman

Jacob Grotty and Sanna Vang compete in a cup stacking competition that was one of the events in the Third Grade Olympics.